Non-functional telephones in Nandla, Himachal Pradesh

2122. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received numerous complaints regarding non-working of telephones in Village Nandla in Shimla district, Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the concerned engineers and officers have not paid due attention to the problems; and

(d) the action proposed/being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the average fault rate (Number of faults per hundred connections per month) for the last three months for Nandla Village is 7.2 which is equal to the BSNL's overall average fault rate.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Does not arise as the faults were promptly attended.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Obstruction in the network

†2123. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has in its report expressed its concern over the level of obstructions in the networks of Bharati, Reliance and other private telecom companies and public sector company, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.;

(b) what has been the level of obstruction, State-wise in the networks of private telecom companies and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. remained in excess of the prescribed standards in urban and rural areas during last three years; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to maintain the level of obstruction in networks as per the prescribed standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) TRAI has expressed general concern over the level of congestion between the networks of various operators as it has direct bearing on the quality of service and not particularly regarding the networks of Bharati, Reliance and other private telecom companies and public sector company, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.

(b) As per the Regulation on quality of service for Basic and Cellular Mobile Telephone Services, 2005 dated 01.07.2005, the benchmark for the parameter Point of Interconnection (PoI) congestion between the networks is <0.5%. TRAI monitors the performance of Cellular Mobile Service Providers against this benchmark on a monthly basis through congesion reports received from service providers. These reports are submitted on a service area was basis and the data is consolidated for the service area as a whole. Hence separate data on urban and rural areas/State-wise is not maintained by TRAI. Obstructions (congestion) specifically within the networks (intra-network congestion between exchanges) of various operators namely Bharati, Reliance and other private telecom companies and public sector company, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., are not monitored.

(c) Inter-connection provisioning is a continuous process. For reduction of inter-network congestion between networks of various operators, the Government has asked private telecom operators and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited to take various steps which *inter-alia* include holding of regular meetings, streamlining of the procedure for provisioning of PoIs in time bound manner, to provide forecast for demand of PoIs in advance to enable BSNL to plan necessary equipment where feasible so as to reduce the technically non-feasible cases.

Mobile Number Portability facility

2124. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to introduce Mobile